

REGULAR MEETING

June 8, 2020

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020, immediately following the Work Session at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. Mayor William deGolian presided.

Present were Mayor deGolian and council members Armour, Cullars, Denard, Hill, Mahoney and Wagner. Also present were City Administrator deBin, Assistant City Administrator Dill, City Clerk Evans and City Attorney Barry Fleming.

Visitors present are listed in the minutes of the Work Session held prior to regular meeting.

Call to order by Mayor deGolian. Council Member Hill opened the meeting with prayer. Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the work session.

Mayor advised that Tuesday, June 9th was voting day and he encouraged everyone to go out and vote. Tsplost was on the ballot and very important item. Mayor deGolian received an update on the census from Henry Crew, only 40 to 45 percent have responded. Mayor also stated free Covid-19 test would be administered at Washington-Wilkes High School on Tuesday, June 9th. Mayor stated that previous years the Mayor and Council have not met for a Council Meeting in July and this will continue this year also. No July Council Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by Armour, second by Hill, consideration of approval of May 11th minutes. Minutes approval, 6-0.

AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by Armour to cancel item (g) Section VIII. Council Topics, Administrator deBin salary, Armour stated he see no need for the discussion of this topic, second by Denard. Discussion by Hill, Hill wanted to know the reason Mahoney asked for item (g) to be addressed. Mahoney stated (g) off the agenda need to be distributed in a timely manner and he wants to be clear for the record, that he does not approve of the salary of \$90,000 for this City Administrator or will he ever approve of \$90,000 for an administrator. Mahoney also encourage member to ask for a copy of the minutes to be clear. After discussion, motion to strike item (g) off agenda, Mayor asked for a show of hands of those who agreed to remove item (g), Armour, Denard Hill, & Wagner; those opposed Cullars & Mahoney. Proceed with amended agenda, motion by Mahoney, seconded by Hill. All in favor. Mayor deGolian stated that Denard wants to address the Council. Mahoney stated that if Denard want the opportunity to speak to the Council he need to be on the agenda to speak and he, Mahoney would love to hear what Denard have to say, Denard need to be on the agenda. Mayor deGolian asked for a motion to replace topic (g) with Denard addressing the Council. Mahoney motioned to amend to add Denard to agenda, second by Wagner. All in favor.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS: Appointment of MEAG delegates – Mayor deGolian discussed the delegate appointment with Cullars and suggested Mahoney from District 1 and Wagner from District 2. Motioned by Wagner, second by Cullars. Approved 6-0. Budget Amendment approval motioned by Armour, Second by Denard. No discussion. All approved. Covid-19 Related Business/Community Relief Efforts – Janet Parker worked on spreading the word of all resources available to small businesses. She stated that Rev. Hill was instrumental as well as Administrator deBin as to helping spread the word. Mrs.

Parker stated that her email contact had grown. With her partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, she was able to communicate via email, telephone, community meetings and workshops 120 from her list and 300 from the Chamber list. Mayor deGolian appointed a Covid-19 Task Force as well. Community Outreach meetings are held 1st Thursday @ 9 A.M. @ Square Café. There is a Community Cares Act Loan Advisor, Bambi Arnold, who's a CPA, if there are any questions about applications. On May 20th there was a Community Workshop/Conference Call, less than a 24 hour notice, about 7 businesses were in attendance. There are two Intergovernmental Agreements to sell our excess power: WAHA and Elberton. Denard wanted to know the time frame of the agreements. 2 year time frame. City Attorney Fleming stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement can be approved tonight however the attorney looks over the agreement then after the Mayor can sign the agreement. Motion by Mahoney to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement, second by Hill. No discussion. 6-0 all approved.

Permit request for free concert on square, July 3rd – Fitzpatrick & Maddie's Pub – Motion by Armour, second by Wagner. Question: Mahoney asked if all businesses on the square were advised of the concert. The answer to that question was yes, the businesses were advised. Hill asked if there would be any City workers involved in the clean-up. The answer was no, those sponsoring the event would be cleaning up the area. All approved.

MAYOR'S TOPIC: Resolution to honor Deacon Eddie Finnell, Sr. – Cullars motioned to approve resolution, second by Denard. 6-0 all approved. Mayor and Council signed. Deacon Finnell's wife, Mrs. Kay Finnell and his daughter, Dr. Alicia Finnell were present. Council Member Hill, presented the resolution to the ladies. Mrs. Finnell and Dr. Finnell took photos with the Administrator, Mayor, and Council Members.

Mayor deGolian stated that there is a rough draft of a Resolution on Racism and Hate. Motion by Cullars to go forwards with this resolution, second by Armour. Appointment to Public Health Department Commission - Kendra Dill appointee.

COUNCIL TOPIC: Mahoney demanded that Denard immediately resign or be removed from his seat on the council because of a facebook post in which Denard shared. Mahoney stated the city is made up of 60% of African Americans and during the time of these senseless killing the statement Denard posted, "the virus didn't work.....start the race riot." Mahoney stated that he has been called upon by his constituents to ask for his resignation. Denard apologized for the post and stated he did not intend to offend anyone and it was not his intention. Denard speech is attached with minutes. Mahoney asked that the social media policies be upgraded. Mahoney asked Administrator deBin about the MEAG payment. Mr. deBin stated that we were catching up. As for the new Electric Policy, Mahoney advised that for the record he did not vote for the new electric policies. Mahoney asked if everyone was disconnected at the same time? deBin advised that the city does not have a cutoff switch for everyone. Mahoney answered his own question as, NO. Businesses are not cutoff. There residential customers should be treated as the businesses meaning businesses are told they are on the cutoff and have the ability to go to City Hall and pay their bill. deBin advised that he would find out if that was going on.

Mahoney voiced his concern for the no fishing policy. Mahoney stated this policy is a conflict of interest because the Administrator, deBin lease property around city property. Many questions about liabilities and comments arose. The council agreed to table this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Eric Luke approached the podium. Mr. Luke a local business owner commented that the city needs to work together. He said it's appalling to see the leadership in the city to continually

look at faults in others. He stated that we need to stop judging and find a way to work together to make this community more inviting.

David Toburen commented that he loves this town and love this community. He wants the city to get it together.

Rev. Lance Pitts, President of the Washington Chapter of the NAACP. Stated that racism is still alive and he found Matt Denard's facebook post extremely insensitive.

Johnny Marshall came to the podium and stated that the city need to spend more time on the elderly. Helping the elderly, instead of arguing on fishing policies.

Rev. Charles Belton, pastor of Mt. Carmel stated that there are two keys needed to unlock the doors that lead to where we want to be.

The last citizen to approach the podium was Andy Anderson who offered a different voice. He complimented everyone on the March. He was not able to participate but his wife did attend and he stated that she was touched. He said she said the March was amazing. He's proud to be from Washington and proud to be an American.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mahoney, second by Denard City Council Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK